



Department of Corrections
ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

**Subject: INFECTIOUS DISEASE
CONTROL UNIT**

Number:

91/31

Date Issued:

October 29, 1991

Cancelled Effective:

January 28, 1992

The purpose of this Administrative Bulletin is to describe the Department's new Infectious Disease Control Unit (IDCU) within the Office of Health Care Services (OHCS).

The IDCU has been established in response to the increased incidence of infectious diseases, most notably Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) disease and tuberculosis (TB) currently being experienced by the Department. Both TB and HIV disease are on the increase in the outside community as well as in other state prison systems, and the growing number of incarcerated persons in our system is reflecting this trend. The IDCU will be responsible for developing and implementing infectious disease control programs throughout the Department. Activities will include development of policies and procedures, case reporting and tracking systems, and expansion of the current Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Education Program to include educational activities on all infectious diseases. Creation of this unit brings the Department into a new realm of the health field, "Public Health." The Department is believed to be the first correctional system in the country with a Public Health Program component.

The IDCU is currently headed by Ronelle Campbell, D.O. Dr. Campbell joined the Department in 1988 in the position of Public Health Physician at the California Men's Colony, specializing in HIV disease, TB, sexually transmitted diseases, and other infectious diseases. She joined the Department after spending two years practicing internal medicine at the Veterans Administration Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Campbell is a graduate of Oklahoma State, having majored in biochemistry. She completed her medical degree at the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Missouri. Dr. Campbell is Board Certified in Internal Medicine.

The IDCU will initially be comprised of 22 positions assigned to one of three sections. One of these sections is the Infectious Disease Policy Development and Implementation Section. This section will be staffed by 14 Public Health Nurses and will be responsible for the development of management policies for AIDS and other infectious diseases.

Five of the 13 Public Health Nurse Is will work out of the OHCS and provide consultation to the facilities on a regional basis. Eight Public Health Nurse Is will be funded out of OHCS and initially assigned to specific facilities (California Institution for Women; Central California Women's Facility; California Institution for Men, California Men's Colony, California Rehabilitation Center; California State Prison, Folsom; and California State Prison, Corcoran). These assignments may change over time on a temporary or permanent basis in response to identified needs. These nurses will work with facility staff (both at the facility to which assigned



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and surrounding facilities) to implement infectious disease control programs and will report to the Chief Medical Officer at their assigned facilities. All of the Public Health Nurse Is will work under the direction of the Public Health Nurse III heading the section in Sacramento.

The IDCU will also contain the Infectious Disease Information and Education section. Staff in this section will be responsible for the continuation of the Department's AIDS Education and Training Program and will expand this role to include education and training activities on all infectious diseases. The target audience will continue to be staff (medical, custody, ancillary, and parole), inmates and parolees. This section will also continue to have responsibility for the HIV Antibody Pre- and Post-test Counselor certification program and for oversight of Senate Bill 1913 and Proposition 96 activities.

The third section in the IDCU will be the Data Collection and Surveillance Section. Staff will be responsible for developing case-tracking systems, ensuring mandated reporting of infectious disease cases and conducting epidemiological studies. This section will take over the function of collecting the monthly statistics on the number and location of identified HIV-infected inmates.

One of the first tasks for Dr. Campbell and the IDCU is the implementation of a comprehensive TB Control Program within the Department. This program will establish comprehensive and standardized guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and control of TB, mitigation of the spread of TB to staff and other inmates, appropriate reporting of TB cases to the county health departments and the State Department of Health Services, and notification to the County Health Department of disease outbreaks. Future tasks will include programs for sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis, and continuance of the AIDS management program.

Because of the Department's current rise in the number of TB cases, Dr. Campbell will be on site at all facilities in the near future to begin implementation of the TB Control Program. This will include training medical staff on the TB control guidelines.

I am expecting the full cooperation of all facility staff in this and all activities of the IDCU.



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Please inform all persons concerned of the contents of this bulletin until incorporated into the appropriate section of the Department's Operations Manual or Director's Rules. If there are any questions, please contact Nadim Khoury, M.D., Assistant Deputy Director, or OHCS at (916) 324-0876 or ATSS 454-0876.

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Chief Deputy Director